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BOE MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTISTATE TAX CONFERENCE

BOE Chairman Horton, Vice Chair Steel, and First District Member Yee to Discuss Current, Future Tax Policy

Sacramento - The Federation of Tax Administrators (FTA) is hosting its annual Midwinter Commissioners Seminar, providing an opportunity for state taxation agencies and other key organizations to share ideas for improving and streamlining tax administration. The conference is being held January 11 through 13 at the Hyatt Regency in Newport Beach, California.

Board of Equalization (BOE) Chairman Jerome E. Horton, Vice-Chair Michelle Steel, and First District Member Betty T. Yee will welcome participants and offer insights on the current and future direction of California's tax policy.

The Conference provides a forum to discuss a variety of important topics and best practices, including increasing efficiencies in light of states' fiscal conditions, maximizing voluntary compliance and revenue collection, federal preemption legislation, combating fraudulent tax return filings, and the enhanced use of federal data.

Participating in this year's conference are the California State Board of Equalization, the National Association of State Budget Officers, the National Governors' Association, Georgetown University Law Center, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Multistate Tax Commission.

Background: The FTA was organized in 1937 to improve the quality of state tax administration by providing services to state tax authorities and administrators. These services include research and information exchange, training, and intergovernmental and interstate coordination. The Federation also represents the interests of state tax administrators before federal policymakers where appropriate.

FTA serves the principal tax collection agencies of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and New York City. The work of FTA is directed and governed by an eighteen-member Board of Trustees composed of tax administrators representing all regions of the country. The Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service is an ex-officio board member.

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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization Legislative Committee chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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